

as Americans during that Olympic period will join us on this floor of Congress as we seek to form a more perfect Union.

FARM BILL

(Mr. BERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BERG. Madam Speaker, last night the House Agriculture Committee finished its work on the farm bill, late last night, and I applaud Chairman LUCAS and Ranking Member PETERSON for their work. I rise today to call for full consideration of the farm bill before the House.

Agriculture is the backbone of North Dakota, and North Dakota farmers and ranchers deserve the stability and certainty that a long-term reauthorized farm bill would provide.

With the farm bill passing through committee with bipartisan support, including strong crop insurance, now is the time for the full House to act on it. I urge my colleagues to join with me and work together to get this bipartisan farm bill passed.

HONORING PRISCILLA DEWEY HOUGHTON

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, Priscilla Dewey Houghton, beloved wife of our dear colleague of 18 years, Amo Houghton, passed away last Friday.

She was a playwright, a linguist, a poet who, together with Amo, formed a special type of power couple. Priscilla was intelligent, curious, and gracious. She was the perfect partner for Amo.

While her efforts 40 years ago led her to introduce children and adolescents to joy and creativity in Massachusetts, here in D.C., with Amo, she fought against rancor and mean spiritedness in our Nation's capital.

Priscilla was the first honorary member of the Congressional Bike Caucus. Cycling was significant to her because of an early bout with polio that left her bedridden for a year. Priscilla was a very special woman whose battle with adversity never slowed her down or dimmed her spirits.

Our hearts go out to Amo and her family and friends gathering for her memorial service in Boston this Saturday.

LIFE SAFETY EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR: MARSHA GIESLER

(Mrs. BIGGERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Marsha Giesler, an Illinois native and a recipient of the 2012 National Fire Protection Associa-

tion's Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year award.

Marsha serves as the Downers Grove Fire Department public information officer, and in that role she coordinates with emergency service personnel to provide Downers Grove residents with valuable, lifesaving information and safety-related materials. She is also assistant to the chief and a juvenile fire interventionist. To help others promote safety within their own communities, she published a 400-page reference book, "Fire and Life Safety Educator," the most easily accessible reference book of its kind.

Madam Speaker, Marsha Giesler's more than 20 years of excellent public service have demonstrated her commitment to keeping our community safe, and I want to commend Marsha for her leadership, her dedication, and her hard work.

NEW YORK STATE'S I-STOP LAW

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, yesterday New York State's Eric Schneiderman was in western New York to celebrate the passage of New York State's I-STOP law. This law uses online databases to connect doctors and pharmacists helping to combat the tragic prescription drug abuse epidemic.

I was pleased to join the effort by leading a bipartisan State delegation letter in support of this law. While there are many important players in the passage of this bill, I would like to especially congratulate Senator Tim Kennedy, Avi and Julie Israel for their efforts.

The passage of I-STOP raises awareness of the growing importance of integrating health information technology and electronic medical records into the field of health care.

Madam Speaker, I am hopeful that other States move to implement this and other electronic medical record technologies. This is a serious problem, and it is our responsibility to act swiftly.

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GETTING SPECIFIC ON HEALTH CARE

(Mr. HULTGREN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HULTGREN. Madam Speaker, now that the health care law is out of the judicial process, it's back in the hands of the legislature. It's time to face the real consequences of this law.

This week, the Ways and Means Committee has started examining the tax effects. The Oversight Committee is looking at the impact on patients and doctors and on the economy. But in reality, we know what to expect. An average American family will see a \$1,200

increase in health care premiums after this law is fully in effect. More than 1 million Americans are at risk of losing their plan because their plan was denied a waiver. The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that we will see 800,000 fewer jobs by 2012. The law contains 22 new tax increases. And 9 in 10 seniors with retiree benefits will lose their retiree prescription drug coverage through their employers.

It's time to get specific with the American people about what this law means for them.

PROTECTING THE STUDENT LOAN INTEREST RATE

(Mr. COURTNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COURTNEY. Last Friday, President Obama signed into law a bipartisan compromise which extended a lower student interest rate of 3.4 percent. Incredibly, the ink was barely dry on that measure when the Romney campaign introduced their higher education plan, which would take us back to wasteful taxpayer subsidies to private student loan lenders.

This is what the conservative Cato Institute said about that proposal:

A meaningless change from a college affordability standpoint. Obviously, it would have an effect for banks, who would be happy to go back to that. It was a great gig for them.

A Romney supporter at the new New America Foundation said on this issue:

On this issue, Romney is just ridiculous. His campaign staff doesn't have any new ideas. So they just said, Let's go back to what we were doing before the Obama administration.

For young Americans, the choice this fall is becoming clearer. We have a President who successfully challenged this Congress to protect the lower student loan interest rate, and his opponent, who is looking to take \$60 billion in taxpayer funds and give it away to special interests.

THE PULSE OF TEXAS: AVA

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, when I am back in southeast Texas, I hear from individuals and businesses who are concerned about how ObamaCare will affect them. Ava, a senior from Houston, tells me this:

I am a senior who is very concerned that I will lose the great health care that I am presently receiving under Medicare. I am pleased with my doctors and with my health care plan. At the present, I can afford it, and I am concerned I will not be able to in the future if ObamaCare goes completely through and that I might not get the care I need for the health issues I already have.

Seniors cannot afford ObamaCare, nor do they want it. Living on limited income today is hard enough without this new health care plan wanting more of my money. Seniors seem to be taking it on the chin tremendously on this issue.